

Human Rights Commission

June 10, 2021
Monthly Meeting

Present

Mike Henson, Commissioner
Christopher Spicer-Hankle, Commissioner
Lara Versari, Commissioner
Nancy Bacci, Deputy Director
Jennifer Mancia, Community Services Manager

No Members of the Public Present

Minutes approved

Members of the commission unanimously approved minutes of the previous meeting for posting and public distribution.

Immigrant Stories project

Commissioner Lara shared the google spreadsheet immigrant-owned restaurants. The Overview Letter has been translated into Portuguese, Spanish, but awaiting assistance for Haitian Creole, and Nepalese from the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA). Commissioner Christopher distributed the Spanish-language version to several restaurants. Any financial compensation to SOIA for the translation work can be addressed at the next monthly meeting.

The commission discussed Christopher's experiment. Agreement that personal delivery method is ideal, and follow-up can occur via email, if the commission has an email address for the owner.

Commissioner Lara agreed to share the existing versions of the letter with volunteers. And coordination through the shared spreadsheet, which contains space record who is contacting each restaurant-owner, is important, in order not to duplicate efforts.

New business: June 27 Outdoor Rally

The commission acknowledged a more major rally would call for a permit, which could take 4-6 weeks to be processed.

The commission agreed to proceed with informal banner-holding in Davis Square June 27. The commission authored a statement. The motion to adopt the statement for use in the following ways: 1) as a flyer during the stand-out, 2) and as a press release for promotion by

City social media and outreach to partners such as Somerviva; 3) as well as posted on HRC webpage.

The commission hear report from commissioner Christopher about Financial Committee discussion of FY22 proposal by Racial and Social Justice Director Denise Molina Capers.

Next meeting Thursday July 15

Agenda to include discussion of budget FY22 including drafting request and statement of needs.